

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (currently amended) A casing comprising casing parts and fastening elements, wherein the casing parts are connected to one another by the fastening elements ~~so that the casing parts form a continuous contour of the exterior of the casing that is free of projections, recesses, and steps, even in an area where the casing parts adjoin one another, respectively, wherein the fastening elements that are located inside and concealed within the casing and inaccessible from the exterior of the casing when the casing is flanged to a motor casing, wherein such that~~ the fastening elements do not project to the exterior of the casing parts and the exterior of the casing has a continuous contour that is free of edges, corners, projections, recesses, and steps caused by the fastening elements or by recesses for receiving the fastening elements so that dirt particles and germs are prevented from depositing on the exterior of the casing ~~are concealed within the casing.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The casing according to claim 1, wherein a first one of the casing parts has through openings for receiving the fastening elements.

4. (original) The casing according to claim 3, wherein a second one of the casing parts has threaded bores for receiving the fastening elements.

5. (original) The casing according to claim 4, wherein the threaded bores are provided in an end face of the second casing part.

6. (original) The casing according to claim 3, wherein the first casing part has an end face provided with recesses, wherein the through openings open into the recesses.

7. (original) The casing according to claim 3, wherein the first casing part has an end face and wherein the through openings of the first casing part are positioned recessed relative to the end face.

8. (original) The casing according to claim 7, wherein the first casing part has an inner wall and an annular surface positioned in a radial plane of the first casing part and adjoining the inner wall of the first casing part.

9. (original) The casing according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the first

and second casing parts has an inner side that is thicker in the area of the threaded bores or through openings than in adjoining areas.

10. (original) The casing according to claim 1, wherein the casing parts each have plane end faces and the plane end faces of the casing parts that adjoin one another rest against one another.

11. (original) The casing according to claim 10, wherein the casing parts at least in the area of the end faces have identical contours such that no step is formed at a transition between the casing parts that adjoin one another.

12. (original) The casing according to claim 10, further comprising a protective layer covering a parting line between the casing parts that adjoin one another.

13. (original) The casing according to claim 12, wherein the protective layer is a coat of paint.

14. (original) The casing according to claim 1, wherein a first one of the casing parts has at least one casing member projecting laterally from the first casing part.

15. (original) The casing according to claim 14, wherein the casing part and the at least one casing member are formed as a monolithic part.

16. (original) The casing according to claim 14, wherein the at least one casing member has an end face that is closed off by a lid.

17. (original) The casing according to claim 16, wherein the lid has a shoulder surface resting areally on an end face of the at least one casing member.

18. (original) The casing according to claim 16, wherein the lid is screwed into the at least one casing member.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The casing according to claim 1, wherein the fastening elements are screws.

22. (original) The casing according to claim 1, wherein the casing is a transmission casing.

23. (previously presented) The casing according to claim 1, wherein the fastening elements comprise first and second fastening elements, wherein a first one of

the casing parts has through openings for inserting the first fastening elements, wherein a second one of the casing parts has threaded bores into which the first fastening elements are threaded and has through openings for inserting the second fastening elements, wherein a third one of the casing parts has threaded bores into which the second fastening elements are threaded.